

HEL

USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 1965

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SURVEYOR & CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BRIDGE STREET,
USK.....MON.



USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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DR. S.M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR & CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

* H. PEARSON, A.M.I.S.E., M.A.P.H.I., A.F.S. (ENG)

ASSISTANT SURVEYOR & ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

* W.L. DAVIES, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., C. & G., FULL TECH. A.M.I.P.H.E.

* Joint with Pontypool R.D.C.



Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There are approximately two hundred elderly people living in the Urban District of Usk today i.e. men and women over the present pension age of 65 and 60 years respectively. The number has more or less doubled in the last half-century and it is reasonable to expect that the present upward trend will continue over the next twenty years. This remarkable shift in the age pattern of our population, both locally and nationally, presents new problems to those interested in the health and welfare of the community.

Many of the pensioners enjoy better health than their predecessors due to advances in medical science and improved social services. Increasing numbers have spent less hours at strenuous work than did their forefathers and are therefore potentially more active. Fortunately, some of them are adequately housed in Usk and are able to look after themselves on retirement. Others can do so with help from the family or various local authority and voluntary services. On the other hand, a few of them are living in accommodation that has become unsuited to their needs for one reason or another. Although residential homes for the aged will certainly be needed for as long as we can see and probably for increasing numbers of old people, the great majority of the elderly are able to live in their own homes. This Council appreciates the need to help the elderly to do so, the emphasis having changed from insitutional to community care.

During this year considerable thought was given to the planning and building of accommodation suitable for the town's elderly. Work was commenced on six bungalows, these to be ready for occupation early in 1966. The alms houses have served their purpose very well but the time has come for them to be replaced and we hope that the necessary action will be taken in the foreseeable future.

There will be a growing need for special accommodation for the elderly, because, as we all know, old age does not come alone. For instance, the metabolism of the body in old age will not allow any drastic drop in temperature, hence the need for an adequate even temperature in all rooms - the poor climate in a British bathroom is a common experience. We also know that the elderly cannot accommodate to sudden changes in illumination, hence the need for full lighting, especially where there are stairs and staircases. Window height is very important particularly if disabled and housebound. The elderly are accident-prone therefore flooring deserves careful consideration and whatever material chosen, it should be non-slip. Similarly, toilets and baths should be provided with hand-rails and, preferably, baths should not be more than 5 feet in length. In other words, housing, particularly for the aged, demands a preventure rather than a casualty approach, if the problems and difficulties too often experienced by the elderly are to be overcome.

The infectious diseases, which were responsible for the greater proportion of deaths in the past, have yielded place in mortality tables to the diseases associated with later age-groups. More and more old people die each year from circulatory diseases and cancer of all types. Other disabilities tend to increase with advancing years. Vision begins to fail, until after



60 years of age, only about one in twenty people can read without glasses. Hearing becomes less acute. Giddiness is common and a large majority of falls occurs after the age of 65 years. While many of these conditions cannot be wholly prevented their onset can be delayed. Periodical medical examinations at geriatric clinics could and would contribute greatly towards a healthy and happy retirement. We all know that infant welfare clinics have played an important part in improving the health and well-being of the young, so it is reasonable to expect similar positive results in the promotion of a healthy old age. We are also increasingly aware of the problems associated with leisure. In the past, people either worked until they dropped or were overcome by chronic ill-health. Today, more and more are forced to retire at a fixed age. At the same time, their working days have gradually become shorter and their leisure time longer. Unfortunately, most people are, as yet, ill prepared for this increase in leisure time. How many of us are dependent on mass media for our sole means of entertainment? The proper use of leisure could profitably be included in the health education programme of a geriatric clinic.

This Council also continues to devote much time and energy in consideration, discussion, and planning for the needs of the population in general. In 1965 work was started on the building of ten flats in the town. It is hoped that this continued building programme will soon provide suitable accommodation for those on our housing waiting list particularly families still living in slum properties and those in overcrowded conditions as well as the aged. Some of them will be offered a decent modern home complete with bath etc. possibly for the first time in their lives.

When houses are built it is necessary to plan and provide ancillary but nevertheless, equally essential services. There must be an available supply of pure and wholesome water not only to meet the demands of new and old houses but also our modern way of life. Usk is a town with comparatively little industry to increase the demand. So far, our water supply has been adequately provided by the Pontypool and District Water Company and this has been regularly sampled and investigated. There must also be a satisfactory means of sewage disposal. Most of the houses in the town have been connected to the main sewers. Refuse disposal is also essential and this is done by the controlled tipping method on the outskirts of the town.

These and other services, provided by the local authority and requiring constant vigilance and action from the officials, form an essential part of our physical environment. Whatever the pattern of disease, a good physical environment will always be conducive to optimum health.

VITAL STATISTICS - 1965

Area 655 acres
 Estimated Population 2030
 Number of inhabited houses 635
 (according to Rate Book on 31.12.65)
 Rateable Value £46,280
 1d Rate £173

1965

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	15	13	28
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	15	13	28

<u>LIVE BIRTH RATE</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
per 1000 population	13.79	18.68	18.0

Comparability Factor = 1.07
 Adjusted live birth rate = 13.79 x 1.07
 = 14.75
 " " " " County = 19.05

<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

<u>STILL-BIRTH RATE</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
per 1000 live & still-births	-	22.5	15.7

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
All Causes	7	5	12

Death rate per 1000 population	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
	5.91	10.9	11.5

Comparability factor = 1.12
 Adjusted death rate = 5.91 x 1.12
 = 6.62
 " " " " County = 12.31

<u>DEATHS FROM CANCER</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	3	1	4

<u>DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER</u>			
	2	-	2

DEATHS DUE TO PREGNANCY, CHILD-BIRTH, ABORTION = 0

<u>Maternal Mortality Rate</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
(Rate per 1000 live & still-births)	-	-

INFANT MORTALITY

<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
(Rate per 1000 total live births)	-	21.21	19.0
<u>Neonatal Mortality Rate - first 4 weeks</u>			
(Rate per 1000 total live births)	-	14.39	
<u>Early Neonatal Mortality Rate - under 1 wk</u>	-	12.27	
<u>Perinatal Mortality</u>			
(Still-births & infant deaths under 1 wk per 1000 total live & still-births)	-	35.98	

Peri-ntal Mortality in Usk Urban District 1960-65

Year	Number of First Week Deaths	Number of Still-Births	Peri-natal Mortality Rate
1965	-	-	-
1964	-	-	-
1963	-	-	-
1962	-	-	-
1961	1	4	142.86
1960	-	-	-

Per-natal Mortality 1960-65

Usk Urban District, Pontypool Rural District and Monmouthshire

County

Year	Usk Urban District	Pontypool Rural District	Monmouthshire County
1965	-	22.1	35.98
1964	-	26.5	37.25
1963	-	30.12	35.82
1962	-	17.7	38.85
1961	142.86	25.79	39.9
1960	-	29.4	42.0

Causes of Death at different periods of life during 1965 in Usk
Urban District

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 wks & under 1 year	Age in Years							
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-75-
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	M	2									2	
	F	-										
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	F	1							1			
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	1									1	
	F	-										
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	-										
	F	1										1
Coronary Disease Angina	M	1									1	
	F	-										
Other Heart Disease	M	2										2
	F	2										1 1
Pneumonia	M	-										
	F	1								1		
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	M	1										1
Total all Causes	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	- 3
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1 2

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATH (according to Age & Sex)

Age Group	Male	Female
Under 4 weeks	-	-
4 weeks & under 1 year	-	-
1 year -	-	-
5 years -	-	-
15 years -	-	-
25 years -	-	-
35 years -	-	1
45 years -	-	1
55 years -	4	-
65 years -	-	1
75 years +	3	2
TOTAL	7	5

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFIED Pulmonary M O. F O. Non Pulmonary M O. F O.
DEATHS " M O. F O. " " M O. F O.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

Classified according to age and sex

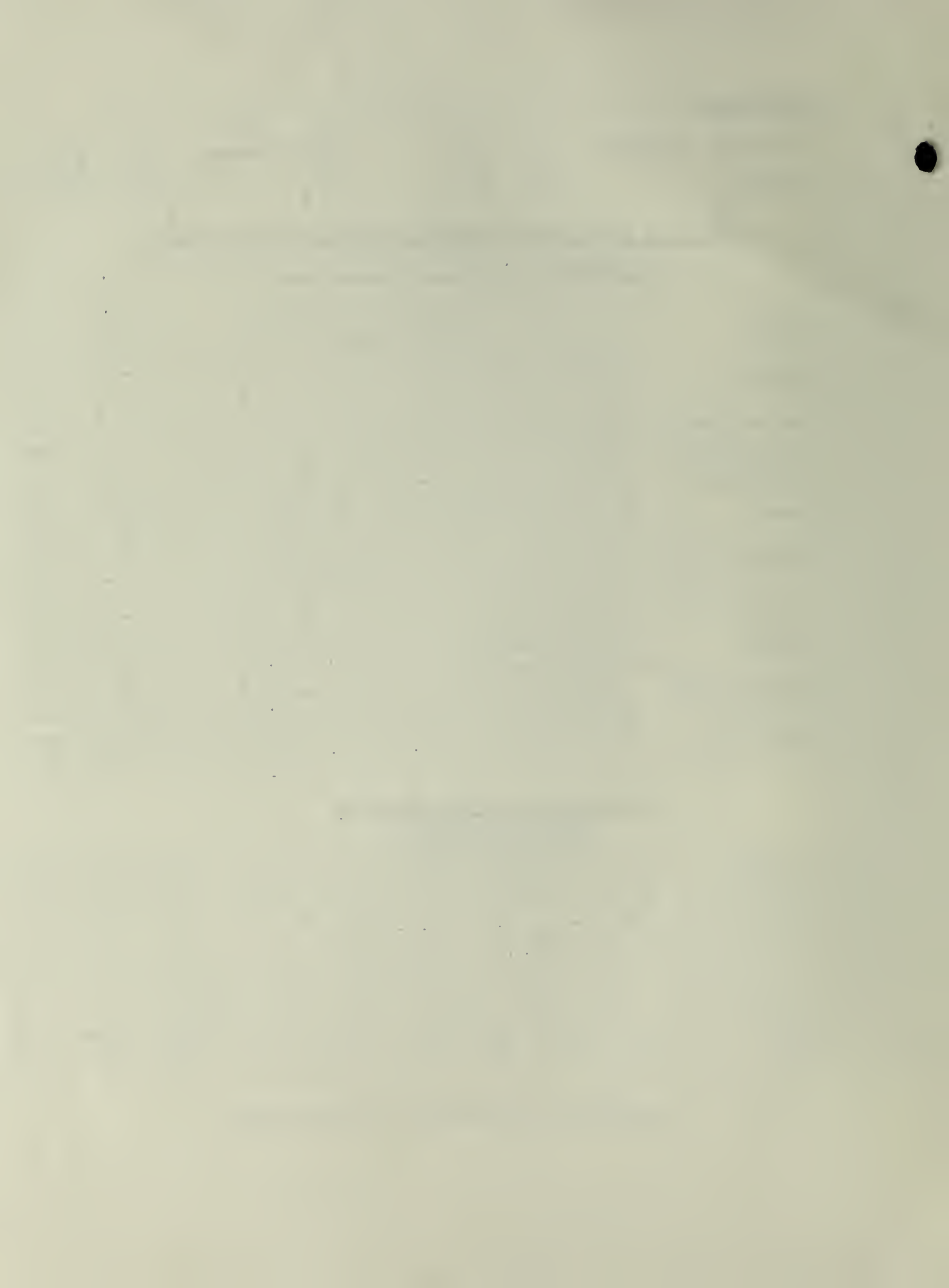
Disease	Sex	Age					Total
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+	
Diphtheria	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	M	4	8	-	-	-	12
	F	8	4	2	-	-	14
Whooping Cough	M	1	1	-	-	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio myelitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALL-POX

Numbers Vaccinated

AGE GROUP	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Under 1 yr	12	15	17	20	22	18	15	13	3	-	-
1 - 4 yrs	5	11	2	7	2	5	4	42	5	11	22
5 - 14 yrs	2	4	1	3	1	2	5	212	2	-	-
15 yrs +	-	7	12	10	7	4	6	639	2	-	-
TOTAL	19	37	32	40	32	29	30	906	12	11	22

In addition, there were 13 revaccinations



I MMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA & WHOOPING COUGH

Numbers Immunised

AGE GROUP	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	
Under 5 years	20	39	38	17 20	13 14	9 10	39 30 29	30 29 30	36 48 40	60 59 55	58 58 62	Diptheria Whoop. Tetanus
5-14 yrs	11	22	6	24	1	1 1	5 2 2	- - 2	2 2 3	10 10 15	5 13 11	Diptheria Whoop. Tetanus
TOTAL	31	61	44	41 20	14 14	10 11	44 32 31	30 29 32	38 50 43	70 69 70	63 71 73	Diptheria Whoop. Tetanus

In addition, there were 54 "Booster" injections of Diptheria Prophylactic given, 43 of Whooping Vaccine and 52 of Tetanus.

Yours faithfully,

S.H. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my report of the work carried out in the district during the year 1965.

INSPECTIONS

Infectious Diseases	3
Houses	56
Re-inspections	45
Improvement Grants	7
Council Houses	47
Nuisances	12
Premises where food is prepared and sold	39
Factories and Workshops	15
Public Conveniences	14
Water Supplies	40
Refuse Collection and Disposal	48
Miscellaneous	162
Sewerage and Drainage	32
Sewage Works	25
Roads	36
Street Lighting	18
Cattle Market	12
Slaughterhouse	152
Shops, Offices & Railway Premises	39
Petroleum Licensing	8

OVERCROWDING

Very little overcrowding exists in Usk. This is due to the fact that persons living in apartments in overcrowded conditions have been given priority by the Council when council houses become vacant. No council houses were erected during the past year.

CARAVANS

A few caravans were stationed in the district during the year, but only for a very short period.

The only ground used for caravan purposes is the market ground which is used solely for the accommodation of caravans during the Annual Trinity Fair. Water supply and sanitation are provided.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year
 - (i) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts 56
 - (b) Number of inspections made for its purpose 101
 - (ii) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 10
2. Remedy of defects during the year without Servicing of Formal Notice

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 8
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year
 - (i) Proceedings under the Housing Act 1957
 - (a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs -
 - (b) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made -
 - (c) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made -
 - (d) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice -
 - (ii) Proceedings under the Public Health Act
 - (a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2
 - (b) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice
 - i) By owners 2
 - ii) By Local Authority in default of owners -

WATER SUPPLY

The Town is served by the Pontypool Water Company's Undertaking and with the exception of four houses, which are distant from the mains, all houses have piped water supply. Nineteen samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories and were found to be satisfactory in all cases.

The Water Company are having difficulty in maintaining a constant supply of water to the houses at Ladyhill, Usk, during periods of peak draw. Action is being taken by the Company's Engineer to overcome the trouble.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS
AND ARCHITECTURE

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SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The majority of houses in the district are connected to the Town sewers. The sewage disposal plant deals with all sewage and is operating successfully, though very regular attention is required at the pumping station in connection with pump maintenance, and also some difficulty is caused with the removal and disposal of sewage sludge.

RODENT CONTROL

The sewers are treated twice each year and no heavy infestations have been reported.

The sewage disposal works and refuse tip are regularly treated to keep any infestation to a minimum. During the year 41 properties were inspected and treated for minor infestations.

FOOD HYGIENE

In general the premises are satisfactory and a good standard is maintained. However, in view of the limited time which the officers can spend in the Urban District, a very close supervision is not possible at present.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

No. of Premises - 39.

Trade & No.	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16.	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies.	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Licensed Premises 13	13	13	13
Cafes 3	3	3	3
Fruit & Veg. 3	3	3	3
General Grocers 10	10	10	10
Sweets & Tobacco 5	5	-	-
Dutchers 4	4	4	4
Fish & Chips 1	1	1	1
Totals 39	39	34	34

SLAUGHTER HOUSES ACT 1957 - Slaughter of Animals
(Amendment Act)

There is only one slaughterhouse in the area.

Number of carcasses inspected and condemned

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Calves</u>
Number killed	62	518	122	1
Number inspected	62	518	122	1
% Inspected	100	100	100	100

All Diseases (except Tuberculosis)

Whole carcase condemned	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	119

Tuberculosis Only

Whole carcase condemned	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil
No. of visits for meat inspection ,.....	152

MILK DISTRIBUTION AND DAIRY PREMISES

Particulars of dairies and dairy premises on the register at 31.12.65.

Dairies	2
Milk Distributors	4

There are no pasteurising or sterilising plants in the area. One dairy has a small bottling and washing plant kept in a clean and satisfactory condition. Both dairies and vehicles are satisfactory.

HOUSING - IMPROVEMENTS

During the year the Council approved one Standard Grant application.

Every encouragement is given to owners of suitable properties to improve and modernise their houses. The raising of the general level of older housing accommodation is well worthwhile.

The 1964 Act which came into operation in August 1964 increased the maximum standard grant to £350.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS

There was some increase in private house building during the year,, and 41 plans were submitted to the Council for consideration. This figure compares favourably with that of 33 for 1964.

PETROLEUM LICENSING

There are four premises in the district where petroleum spirit is stored. Eight visits to these premises were made during the year. Installations are satisfactory.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection is in operation and is carried out on behalf of the Council by the Pontypool Rural District Council. This causes no complications as the responsible officers are employed jointly by the two Councils.

All tipping is carried out at the tip on the outskirts of the town. The conditions of the tip have improved considerably due to the hiring of a bulldozer. The problem of having to dispose of considerable quantities of paper and card is causing some concern and difficulty.

FACTORIES ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2,3,4,6, are to be enforced by the Local Authority	4	6	-	-
(2) Factories not included in above in which sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	7	9	-	-
(3) Other premises in which sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	15	-	-

FACTORIES ACT

2. Cases in which defects were found.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to by H.M.I.	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)</u>				
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	-

Outworkers ... Nil

Steady progress has been made during the year.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and my fellow Officers for the help and co-operation I have received during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

H. PEARSON, A.M.I.S.E., M.A.P.H.I., A.F.S. (ENG).

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

